

To: Chair Senator Dembrow, Vice Chair Senator Thomsen, and Committee Members,

I am in support of SB 744 "Eliminating Oregon's Graduation Barrier".

Many studies have shown that such testing requirements do nothing to raise achievement, improve employment prospects or ensure college success. These testing requirements are especially harmful to the future success and livelihood of low-income students, English language learners and students of color. In addition, the time it takes to prepare students to take these tests, takes teaching time away from instruction that can provide authentic and meaningful learning. To say nothing of the financial costs involved in administering the tests.

Oregon is one of only 11 states that still have a testing requirement for graduation and in the past few years eighteen states have ended such testing requirements. Seven states have even granted retroactive high school diplomas to students who were denied them based on test scores. It is time for Oregon to join those states that have eliminated a testing requirement for graduation.

Sincerely,
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